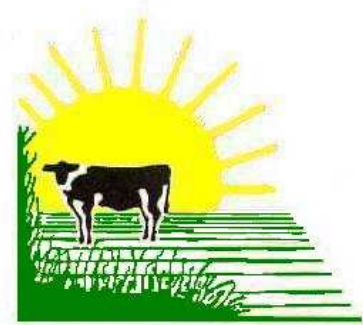


Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

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USDA Service Center Offices

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Missy Wollard, District Manager
Carol Ellis, Program Technician
Harlin Williams, District Technician
Wesley Lebahn, District Technician
Cody Whorton, District Technician
Ron Wright, District Technician
Kavin Mitchell, Pumping Technician
Jack Hicks, Pumping Technician

Wright County SWCD Board of Supervisors

J.D. Hutsell, Chairman
Dan Divine, Vice-Chairman
John Williams, Treasurer
Ted Probert, Secretary
Jacklyn Shaffer, Member

Adam Reed,
District Conservationist
Gorman Bennett,
Resource Conservationist
Theresa Woods, Area Engineer

Farm Service Agency

Clyde Connelly, CED
Sue Price, Program Technician

Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

Fall 2008



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Harlin's Hints

You can do that if you want to...but I sure wouldn't if it was mine!!!

New Employee at the SWCD



If you've been in the office or to a SWCD function recently and noticed a new face, it's mine. My name is Cody Whorton and I am the new District Technician. My wife, Jill, and I live in Mansfield and are expecting a baby boy on or around August 23rd. I was raised in the Mansfield area and graduated from high school there in 2004. I then went to MSU-West Plains, I graduated from there in 2006 with an Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies. Once my general study work was completed I transferred to MSU-Springfield and will soon graduate from there with a Bachelor's Degree in General Agriculture. During my time in college I have spent my summers working for Hughes Brothers Construction in Hartville. For the past year I have worked in my dad's electric business, Whorton Electric, which is located in Mansfield. I am looking forward to getting to know and working with the landowners of Wright County.

State Cost-Share Funds

The cost-share program provides financial incentives to landowners for up to 75 percent of the cost for installation of soil conservation practices that prevent or control excessive erosion. Once a landowner applies for a practice it must go through an eligibility process to qualify for cost-share assistance. Once approved and completed documentation of the completion in the form of paid receipts must be submitted in order for the landowner to receive their contract payment. Our Fiscal Year 2009 began on July 1 and the allocation for this year is \$103, 526.79. In order to keep our funding for future years at a maximum landowners must complete the practices for which they have been approved and all allocated funds must be paid through the contract payment process.

The District has received an allocation of \$103,526.79 for Cost-Share funding for Fiscal Year 2009

NRCS Announces EQIP Sign-Up Opportunity

Missouri landowners can apply July 21 to September 19 for natural resources conservation assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced.

EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to help install structural conservation practices and to implement management systems that promote conservation.

State Conservationist Roger Hansen says that beginning with this sign up, limited-resource farmers, beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers are eligible for increased rates of financial assistance. Also new, Hansen says, is that financial assistance is available for new practices that improve air quality or conserve energy.

Hansen says some tasks associated with this sign up, such as scoring and ranking, cannot be completed until there is a final EQIP rule. The rule will provide new guidance for the EQIP program and will incorporate the 2008 Farm Bill changes. However, NRCS can accept applications, screen them and develop conservation plans while the new rules are pending.

To apply for EQIP or get more information about EQIP and other NRCS programs, contact your local NRCS office at 417-741-6195 ext. 3.

Newly Purchased Corner Post Driver

The Wright County SWCD has recently purchased a Worksaver corner post driver which will be available for area landowners to rent at a rate of \$50.00 per day. The corner post driver can be used on a tractor with a minimum 35 HP, hydraulics and a 3 point hitch. You will be able to drive steel or wood posts up to 8 3/4" in diameter and 10' long. With an 80,000 pound impact, driving those corner posts just got easier. Call or stop by today for additional information on renting this or any of the many items of equipment which we have for rent.



Wright County SWCD Website

The Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District now has a new website. We have put a great deal of information out there for review regarding our board members, District staff, upcoming events, rental equipment, landowner programs, links to partner agencies and stories spotlighting our landowners. You'll also find additional information about the district itself. You will find us on the web at swcd.mo.gov/wright.



Clark/Wolf Creek Special Land Area Treatment (SALT) Project

As of July 1, 2008, the Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District was approved for the Clark/Wolf Creek Special Area Land Treatment (SALT) Project.

This project will work to improve, protect and maintain water quality, through the prevention and reduction of non-point pollution on agricultural land.

This project is funded through the 1/10th of 1% Soils and Parks Sales Tax. Over the next 7 years funds will be available in the amount of \$450,000.

If you are interested in applying for cost-share on your land in the Clark Creek or Wolf Creek Watersheds you should contact our office at 741-6195 ext. 4 or stop by our office when you are in Hartville. We are located at 5220 Highway 5.



Native Warm Season Grass Field Day held at Freeman Farm

On Thursday, July 31st, the Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri University Extension and Missouri Department of Conservation hosted a Native Warm Season Grass Field Day at the farm of Steve and Judy Freeman. The day began with a tour of the fields in which a variety of grasses were planted including; Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass and Eastern Gamagrass. During this portion of the tour Steve visited with the crowd explaining that some of his reasons for planting the NWSG were to better utilize the field for grazing purposes and to cut down on the amount of hay fed during the winter months. After this tour, Mark Kennedy, NRCS, State Grassland Conservationist spoke about the best practices for establishing NWSG.

Following Mark, the Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District served a delicious lunch to all 54 attendees. After lunch, Gorman Bennett, NRCS, Resource Conservationist, Ted Probert, Missouri University Extension each took a few minutes to speak to the crowd about the benefits and commitment of establishing NWSG for grazing cattle and hay production for livestock use. In addition, Keith Wollard, MDC, Wright County Conservation Agent spoke regarding the benefits of being able to use the same fields for both grazing purposes and increasing the variety of wildlife; which uses the grasses for not only cover but also warmth during the winter months.

The day was enjoyed by all and provided a great deal of helpful information for increasing the use of NWSG. If you have any questions or for additional information contact our office at 417-741-6195 ext. 4 or stop by to see us at 5220 Highway 5.



We'd Like to Hear From You

If you have enjoyed this issue of our newsletter and would like to continue to receive it on a quarterly basis we'd like to hear from you. You will have the option to receive your copy via e-mail or regular mail so we'd like to know your preference. If you would like to receive it via e-mail, please send an e-mail to carol.ellis@swcd.mo.gov or to receive the newsletter via the postal service please call us at 417-741-6195 ext. 3.